

**BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

02 OCT 11 PM 1 03

IN RE: SMALL TELEPHONE COMPANIES )  
TARIFF FILINGS REGARDING )  
RECLASSIFICATION OF PAY ) DOCKET NO. 97-01181  
TELEPHONE SERVICE AS REQUIRED BY )  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS )  
COMMISSION (FCC DOCKET 96-128) )

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**RESPONSE OF TENNESSEE PAYPHONE OWNERS ASSOCIATION  
TO MOTION FOR CONTINUANCE**

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The Tennessee Payphone Owners Association ("TPOA") submits the following in response to the request of the Coalition of Tennessee Small Local Exchange Carriers (the "Coalition") for a twenty day extension of time in which to respond to the Hearing Officer's Notice of Filing issued September 26, 2002.

TPOA opposes the Coalition's request for a continuance of nearly three weeks. The Coalition members have already been given more than two weeks to file the materials requested by the Hearing Officer. Furthermore, much of that material is likely to be duplicative of filings already made by the Coalition members. Given the length of time these matters have remained unresolved, and the fact that, when this docket is finally conducted, some Coalition members will likely be ordered to make substantial refunds to payphone owners, TPOA urges that this case be handled as expeditiously as practical.

That being said, TPOA would not oppose a more reasonable request for a continuance of seven to ten days.

In the meantime, TPOA will file next week a proposal for interim relief and a motion designed to resolve most, if not, all of the issues remaining in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

BOULT, CUMMINGS, CONNERS & BERRY, PLC

By:   
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## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been forwarded via U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, to the following on this the 11th day of October, 2002.

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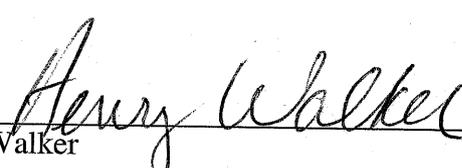
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